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immediately
Please deliver ~~XXXXXXXX~~ following message to Chancellor
from Secretary:
October 20, 1958
QUOTE/My dear Friend:

I send this from Alaska, en route to Taipei, after
having talked at Rome with von Brentano, Fanfani, and Couve
de Murville and in England with Selwyn Lloyd.

I know that the proposals which General de Gaulle has
recently made to the President and to Prime Minister Macmillan
for a fundamental change in the organization of NATO must be a
cause of deep concern to you, as they are to us. The proposals,
for all their radical nature, hardly come as a surprise.
General de Gaulle's concept of the role of France in NATO and
the world is not new. You may recall that when I wrote to you
in early

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Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

S/S - Mr. Calhoun
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ S/S - JNC

EUR - Mr. Fessenden
S/S - Mr. Calhoun

RA - Mr. Fessenden
The Secretary (Adm. Sec.)

GER - Mr. Hilgenbrandt

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in early July, after my talks with General de Gaulle in Paris, I suggested that problems would no doubt develop out of the General's preoccupation that France play a more important role in NATO and the world.

We ~~WM~~ now have the problem of dealing with proposals which emerge from this preoccupation. I gave my preliminary views on this subject to Ambassador Grewe when I saw him on October 8. Much can be said about the question of broadening the area of NATO concern. It seems very clear to me that however diverse may be the responsibilities of the individual NATO countries in the world, there cannot be an organizational classification of countries in NATO.

The questions which are implicitly raised by the General's proposals obviously cannot be disposed of out of hand. I am sure you agree with me that we must proceed with special caution in our consideration of these questions with the French so as to avoid, so far as possible, needlessly offending sensitivities at a moment when France finds herself in a new situation, with a new leader and a new Constitution and a new orientation which, on the whole, seems in the interest of the West. It hardly needs saying that it must continue to be our common aim to keep France working with us as intimately as possible in our effort to reach our common goals.

We have been giving much thought, in concert with our British colleagues, to what our next move should be in dealing with the

questions

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questions raised by the General. It seems to us that the best interim move may be a willingness to let the French Ambassador at Washington expound to one of my associates and to the UK Ambassador at Washington what his thoughts are. Then I hope this particular approach could be dropped in favor of a broader study ^{on} ~~the~~ how further to improve NATO, a problem in which we all have deep concern.

I shall be especially concerned to see to it that you are kept fully informed, and as occasion warrants, we shall be seeking your advice. Faithfully yours, Foster Dulles UNQUOTE

Please ask Chancellor to hold this message in strictest confidence. Similar information being conveyed ~~[Redacted]~~ Spaak. You may at your discretion so advise Chancellor.

Hester ACTING
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